

Wisconsin Governor's Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 14, 2016

10:00AM - 4:00PM

Room 751

1 W. Wilson Street, Madison, WI 53703

Members present: Nicole Everson (Chair), Denise Johnson (Vice Chair), Tom O'Connor, Steve Smart, Lisa Woods, David Seligman

Members excused: Karl Nollenberger

Ex-Officio members: N/A

Ex-officio members excused: Billy Mauldin

ODHH Staff: Amber Mullett (Social Services Supervisor) and Mason Aumanstal (Assistive Technology Program Coordinator)

Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

Approval of May 13th, 2016, minutes: Minutes were amended to correct minor errors.

Motion: Tom motioned to approve the amended minutes of the previous meeting (Steve seconded).

Passed: unanimously as amended.

Council Chair Election: Denise Johnson and Nicole Everson both expressed interest in running for chair. The Council voted by secret ballot. Denise stated that she would like to continue as Vice Chair, but the bylaws was reviewed and discussed.

Motion: Lisa made a motion to suspend the bylaws that prohibit Denise from serving another term as Vice Chair (Tom Seconded).

Passed: unanimously

Chair Election: Nicole Everson accepted to serve as Chair for another term.

Vice Chair Election: Nicole Everson nominated Denise Johnson for the position of Vice Chair. Denise accepted. With no other nominations, Denise is elected as the Vice Chair.

Secretary Election: Tom O'Connor expressed interest in serving as the Secretary. No other members expressed interest in serving. Tom O'Connor was elected as Secretary.

Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Update: Amber Mullett

Telecommunication Assistance Program (TAP): Provided background information of the Telecommunications Assistance Program (TAP) and the copay assistance provided for eligible residents applying for the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP). Amber further discussed the proposed changes of Chapter DHS 78. The changes being proposed reflect the changes in technology that have occurred since the initial drafting of the administrative rule; the changes also allow the TAP program to remain in place as a stand-alone Department sponsored program. The changes were guided by an Advisory Committee that met through the summer. Amber asked that individual board members make themselves available at a local regional ODHH meeting if they can make it. The board agreed to support ODHH with this initiative.

Action: ODHH will send the list of public meetings to the Council.

Lunch Break

Meeting called to order again at 1:12 PM

Chair Report: Nicole Everson

Nicole would like to spend time at the next meeting developing the Council's strategic goals.

Nicole Everson and Denise Johnson were invited to join and will be participating in the Aging and Disability Network Conference planning committee. Council members were also invited to participate in a Badger game-day tailgate at the Governor's mansion. The event will also include legislators and staffers. Nicole Everson and Denise Johnson may be attending and information will be shared with new Council members.

ACTION: Denise noted that the bylaws need to be addressed by the council and asked that the council come to the December meeting with proposed motions.

Discussed the option to live-stream the Council meetings in the future.

Discussed issues with the Council application on the Governor's website. Lisa Woods is available to assist others having difficulty with the application or website.

ACTION: Nicole Everson to send out details relating to the Badger Game-day tailgate at the Governor's Mansion.

ACTION: ODHH to arrange for interpreters if requested.

Suggestion: Council members should review the bylaws and be prepared to make motions that will clarify and tighten the rules.

Old Business: Nicole Everson continued the previous discussion of yearly strategic goals. Discussed the possibility of inviting a facilitator to the December meeting to assist in the development of a strategic plan for the Council.

Discussion of the Council's website and the need for improvements. Lisa Woods and Denise Johnson will work with Mason to update the current website.

Motion: Denise moved that ODHH look into arranging for a facilitator to assist the council in creating the Council's Strategic Goals. (David Seligman Seconded).

Passed: unanimously

Logo: The agenda made mention of the council's logo, but Nicole Everson suggested that this be tabled as it is lower in importance than other items on the agenda. Tom O'Connor agreed.

December meeting: Nicole asked if the Council would be able to meet on December 9th, rather than December 16th.

Update on the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI): Amber Mullett provided a brief update on the current status of the BEI proposal for Wisconsin. The Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) will recognize the BEI for interpreter licensure requirements in Wisconsin.

Deaf Commission of Wisconsin: Discussion of a letter written by Tom O'Connor to the Committee Chairperson. David Seligman suggested inviting WAD to a council meeting to discuss the Commission proposal.

Previously tabled motion: Steve moved that the December meeting be moved from the 16th to the 9th (Lisa seconded)

Passed: unanimously

Motion: Lisa made moved to invite WAD to discuss the creation of the Deaf Commission at the December meeting (David seconded).

Passed: unanimously

Across the Lifespan Conference: Scholarships were made available for individuals to attend.

HLAA Looping Conference: Tom O'Connor noted that there will be a Hearing Loop technology conference on November 5th at the Milwaukee Area Technical College, Oak Creek Campus.

Communication Card: Discussion of other states including, West Virginia wanting permission to use the Communication Card language and images. ODHH is requesting permission to obtain the Communication Card from the Council to update, duplicate and develop training around the use of this card. Nicole Everson will contact Tracy Haas (former secretary) to ask that they formally release the document to the council. When that is done, the council will release the document to ODHH.

ACTION: ODHH will provide Nicole Everson with a letter template to use when drafting Council letters.

Motion: Nicole Everson moved to release the communication card to ODHH pending Tracy Haas' release of the document to the council.

Passed: unanimously

Future meeting dates: It was decided to move ahead with dates on the second Thursday as the bylaws stipulate and change the dates as needed to meet the council's needs.

Motion: David Seligman moved to adopt the dates of 3/9/2017, 5/11/2017, 9/14/2017 and 12/14/2017 (Tom O'Connor Seconded)

Passed: unanimously

Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources Director's report:

Carrie Molke introduced herself and spoke about the makeup of the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR) and the recent move to the Division of Public Health (DPH). Carrie noted that DPH has five key priorities they are addressing: alcohol use, suicide, tobacco, opioid and, physical activity and nutrition. Statistics indicate that these five items are more problematic in certain disabilities and in the aging population.

Carrie made it known that owing to ODHH's work with communication access the Department has been awarded a diversity award from the State Council on Affirmative Action.

Carrie highlighted the upcoming regional meetings that will include a listening session for the community to provide feedback. Carrie hopes that these meetings will allow ODHH to present some of the initiatives that ODHH has undertaken.

Carrie made note of meetings that she has been having with ODHH and WAD every month or two.

Carrie noted that DPH is working with department demographers to establish the unmet data needs of the department. The BADR demographer was going to come speak to the council.

ODHH also highlighted the Stepping On toolkit that was developed for Hard of Hearing individuals participating in an evidence-based falls prevention class. The next step will involve the same class for individuals that are pre-lingually and culturally Deaf; ODHH is also working on a similar class that focuses on yoga.

Carrie noted that she is planning a steering committee for mental health in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. Carrie confirmed that it's a priority for ODHH in the next year.

Carrie stated that the primary goal currently is filling the open Director position. Deafblind services are also an important factor that Carrie is looking to shore up.

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 PM.